

News from the FPPC



California Fair Political Practices Commission
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Michael B. Salerno Named FPPC Executive Director

Michael B. Salerno, a veteran attorney, professor, and author, has been named executive director of the California Fair Political Practices Commission, FPPC Chairman Ross Johnson announced Friday (March 16).

Salerno is the Associate Director of the Center for State and Local Government Law at the University of California Hastings College of the Law, where he teaches courses on legislation, the legislative process, and statutory interpretation. He is an expert on governmental ethics, conflicts of interests, political law and government rulemaking, and the coauthor of the book, *Legal, Legislative, and Rule Drafting in Plain English* (Thompson/West 2005).

“Professor Salerno brings outstanding skills and experience to the FPPC, and we are extremely pleased to announce his appointment,” Chairman Johnson said. “His proven expertise in the areas of political reform law, government ethics, and the drafting of clear and concise rules will greatly aid the commission as we move forward.”

Salerno has been Associate Director of the Hastings Center for State and Local Government Law since 2005, and has taught at Hastings since 1999. He also supervises the Hastings Legislation Clinic, and will be on leave from that employment commencing with the 2007-08 academic year.

From 1979 until 2005, he served as an attorney in the California Legislative Counsel Bureau and was Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel from 1990 until 2003, in which capacity he was counsel to numerous legislative committees focused on campaign finance reform, redistricting, elections, education and other issues. In 1989-1990, he took a one-year leave from the Legislative Counsel Bureau to serve as chief counsel to the Assembly Committee on Economic Development, International Trade, and Technology.

In addition, he was an Adjunct and Visiting Professor at the University of California, Davis School of Law from 1993 until 1996. Professor Salerno was a Fulbright Scholar in Italy in 1995, hosted by Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali (LUISS) in Rome. He has lectured on U.S. law at universities in Italy and taught on that subject in Mexico. He has authored numerous articles.

Professor Salerno earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Davis, in 1979. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1972, and completed additional graduate studies at UC Davis in 1972 and 1973. While in law school, he served on the University of California Board of Regents in 1977 and 1978. Prior to law school, he served as a consultant to the California State Senate and was a principal drafter of the Uniform Determinate Sentencing Act of 1976. He has two children, a 21-year-old son who is a student at UCLA and a 9-year-old daughter.

The FPPC was created by the Political Reform Act of 1974, a ballot initiative passed by California voters as Proposition 9. A bipartisan and independent agency, the commission administers, interprets and enforces the law relating to financial conflicts of interest, campaign contributions and expenditures, and lobbying disclosure.

At the FPPC, Salerno succeeds Mark Krausse, who is leaving the agency to assume the post of director of state agency relations for Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

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